



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Forest  
Service

Pike and San Isabel  
National Forests  
Cimarron and Comanche  
National Grasslands

South Park Ranger District  
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File Code: 1950  
Date: Oct. 30, 2012

Dear Interested Party:

The South Park Ranger District of the Pike National Forest is proposing to conduct prescribed burning and mechanical fuels reduction treatments on approximately 1570 acres in the area of Echo Valley Estates and Beaver Valley Estates, south of Park County Road 98 and east of Park CR 100. The legal location for this project is Township 13 South, Range 72 West, sections 26, 27, 28, 33, 34 & 35; and Township 14 South, Range 72 West, sections 2, 3 & 4. A map showing the project boundary, and possible treatments, is enclosed.

The purpose and need of this project is to reduce the risk of high-severity wildfire by restoring low-intensity fire to ponderosa pine, aspen, grass and shrub ecosystems within the project area, moving the vegetation closer to historical conditions; and to reduce crown fire risk, spot fire potential and surface fire intensity near private land in short-needle conifer stands, mostly by mechanical means.

In response to the purpose and need, the South Park Ranger District is proposing various fuels reduction and vegetation treatments in the project area. These would include up to 1200 acres of prescribed broadcast burning and up to 400 acres of mechanical thinning, potentially including mastication, commercial product removal, fuel wood sales, thinning and piling of small diameter trees by hand crews, pile burning or other treatments. Prescribed fire and mechanical treatments would likely overlap in some areas (for example, understory thinning to moderate prescribed fire effects). The enclosed map provides a preliminary picture of what kind of treatments would be likely in general locations.

No decisions have been made on what treatments, if any, might occur and/or where those may occur within the project area. The above description is a starting point to facilitate discussions. Discussions are ongoing with identified interested parties. The public involvement phase of the environmental analysis and project planning is ongoing throughout the process. Please feel free to contact us at any point during the process if you have additional input or comments for us. However, inputs earlier on are the most helpful. Please send them in writing to Mike Hessler, District Fire Management Officer, at the South Park Ranger District Office (above address or at [mhessler@fs.fed.us](mailto:mhessler@fs.fed.us)). If you have any questions about this proposal, or would like more information, please contact Mike Hessler, 719-836-2031, or David Howard, Assistant District Fire Management Officer (Fuels), 719-748-8505 (or [dahoward@fs.fed.us](mailto:dahoward@fs.fed.us)).

Sincerely,

/s/ **Kristen Sexton**

**KRISTEN SEXTON**  
District Ranger

